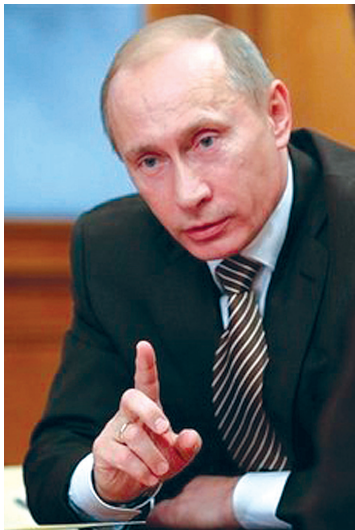


Price of a barrel  
of petroleum  
today:  
**US\$ 39.91**

INSIDE TODAY

U.S. NEWS

MISSILE SALES



Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin seen during a meeting with his First Deputy Igor Shuvalov, not seen, Moscow, Saturday, Dec. 20, 2008.

See **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

SPORTS NEWS

TERRIBLE TITANS



Tennessee Titans linebacker Keith Bulluck drops a Pittsburgh Steelers 'Terrible Towel' to the ground in the final moments of the Titans' 31-14 win over the Steelers in an NFL football game in Nashville, Tenn., Sunday, Dec. 21, 2008.

See **Sports Today**

A wonderful night full of culture

Christmas concert at Paseo Herencia



PASEO HERENCIA – Last Sunday evening, the Paseo Herencia Mall on Palm Beach was the venue for a Christmas concert. Various artist performed songs and pieces from different styles of music, varying from Christmas Merengue to rock classics.

Continued on Next Page

MBA students choose Texas de Brazil



PALM BEACH – The first ever International Tourism MBA class of the University of Aruba chose Texas de Brazil Churrascaria for their end of term dinner. The “students” are all full time employed, and take this

course because they endeavor to become even better in the field of Tourism, and to broaden their horizons. The endless supply of the finest cuts of beef, lamb, pork and sausages coupled with some very fine wines made for a great night indeed. The class wishes you happy holidays, and we will wish them good luck in finishing their course and succeed to be a part of a better future for Aruba.□

Premium Chicken Line  
Crispy or Grilled







© 2008 McDonald's Corporation

**Santa Claus** is coming to **Sbarro**

**Buy a whole pizza pie and get the 2nd one half the price!**

Merry Christmas

Please bring this ad to receive offer. Offer valid from 23<sup>rd</sup> of December till 31<sup>st</sup> of December, 2008

# Christmas concert at Paseo Herencia



*Continued from Front Page*  
Visitors and local alike thoroughly enjoyed themselves as the night progressed, many choosing to sample the fantastic food and drinks at places like Moka's, Taste of Belgium, Nobushi and Mr Jazz.

~Photos by JJ~



We'd like to wish you and your family  
a happy holiday this season.

**Santa Claus is coming to town,  
Santa Claus is coming to Sbarro!**

Sbarro's has a Christmas Special for everyone this Holiday week. With every purchase of a whole pizza pie, the second pie is ½ price. This offer is valid from Decemeber 23rd to 31st, 2008. Stop by today to take advantage of Santa's special.

Pass by any of any of the Sbarro locations at the Renaissance Marketplace, La Hacienda Palm Beach or La Cabana to enjoy the best pizza on the island.

Sbarro wishes everyone on Aruba a "dushi" holiday, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2009. ☐



Scopetstraat #5 • Tel: 593.4647 • muna@mpgaruba.com • www.mpgaruba.com

# For an ultimate dining experience...

**Extravagant Salad Bar • Largest Meat Selection on the island**  
**Fantastic Desserts • Extensive Wine List**  
**Great Cocktails • Cuban Cigars • Kids Menu**

**Early Bird Special** Every Sunday from 4pm to 6pm  
 \$40.00 per person (service charge and tax not included)

Open for dinner daily Monday-Saturday 6pm to 11pm, Sunday 4pm to 11pm  
 For reservations please call 586-4444. J.E. Irausquin Blvd 374, Palm Beach, Aruba

Across the street from the Hyatt Resort, next door to Aqua Grill Restaurant [www.amazonia-aruba.com](http://www.amazonia-aruba.com)

**Amazonia**  
 CHURRASCARIA

Bring this ad with you and  
 receive a **FREE Caipirinha**  
 or **Special Dessert**  
 maximum 2 persons\*

\*not valid with any other promotions

## ATCO and Kiwanis Club Donated to Bibito Pin



ORANJESTAD – After together a project to build a “play ground” for the children of Bibito Pin, they approached



ATCO for a donation of materials to build a sandbox for the play ground. ATCO made a donation of materials to finish the sand box. ATCO donated 6m<sup>3</sup> of Ecocrete and 3 palletes of brick #6 that consists of 350 bricks to the Bibito Pin School in Paradera. All these materials will be used for the sand box of Bibito Pin. Geraldine Oduber of ATCO and Mr. Aldrick Tromp of Kiwanis Club were present for the giving of this donation. □



Now Open Now Open Now Open Now Open Now Open Now Open

## Now Open Quickie Lickie

Tel: 586-7556 LAUNDROMAT

At Palm Beach 186, Next to Wendy's

**OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK**



Mon-Sat 8:00 - 9:00

Sunday 8:00 - 4:00

**Self Service / Drop Off AVAILABLE**

We're located at walking distance from the High Rise Hotel



Price \$ 1.400.000

Spaanslagoenweg 22  
 Land 900m2  
 Build-up area 370 m2

*Spectacular Ocean Front*  
 Property, 5 bedrooms, 6 Bathrooms,  
 Private Beach and Dock for Boats

*This house has a breathtaking view of the ocean!*



Thinking  
 of purchasing  
 your  
 dream home  
 on Aruba!

**RE/MAX**

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 739-9191



PASEO HERENCIA MALL • T 586 8443

Happy Hour From  
Monday-Friday 4pm to 7pm

**Colts vs. Jaquars**  
Thursday December 18



VS



**Ravens vs. Cowboys**  
Saturday December 20



VS

**Packers vs. Bears**  
Monday December 22



VS

Special on Bucket Coors Light \$20 for 5 btl of 12oz

Come and watch your favorite team on one of our 9 flats screens

# Teachers of 48 local schools, celebrate the holidays






Holdings N.V.



**Has its stores OPEN for you to shop During the HOLIDAY SEASON!!**

**And we invite you to visit our stores:**

Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

<b>e Juggling Fish</b>	9:00 AM - 7:00 PM
At Playa Linda Beach Side	9:00 AM - 9:00 PM
At Divi Tamarijn	9AM -1PM & 2PM - 6PM
At Aruba Beach Club	8:30 AM - 8:00 PM
<b>e Lazy Lizard at Moomba Beach</b>	9:00 AM - 9:00 PM
<b>e Coconut Trading Co. At Marriott Ocean Club</b>	8:30 AM - 9:00 PM
<b>e Mill Minimarket</b>	9:00 AM - 10:00 PM
<b>H. Palm &amp; Company at Playa Linda</b>	

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Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup>

<b>e Juggling Fish</b>	9:00 AM - 7:00 PM
At Playa Linda Beach Side	9:00 AM - 9:00 PM
At Divi Tamarijn	9AM -1PM & 2PM - 6PM
At Aruba Beach Club	8:30 AM - 8:00 PM
<b>e Lazy Lizard at Moomba Beach</b>	9:00 AM - 9:00 PM
<b>e Coconut Trading Co. At Marriott Ocean Club</b>	8:30 AM - 9:00 PM
<b>e Mill Minimarket</b>	9:00 AM - 10:00 PM
<b>H. Palm &amp; Company at Playa Linda</b>	

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Friday, December 26<sup>th</sup>

<b>e Juggling Fish</b>	9:00 AM - 7:00 PM
At Playa Linda Beach Side	9:00 AM - 9:00 PM
At Divi Tamarijn	9AM -1PM & 2PM - 6PM
At Aruba Beach Club	8:30 AM - 8:00 PM
<b>e Lazy Lizard at Moomba Beach</b>	9:00 AM - 9:00 PM
<b>e Coconut Trading Co. At Marriott Ocean Club</b>	8:30 AM - 9:00 PM
<b>e Mill Minimarket</b>	9:00 AM - 11:00 PM
<b>H. Palm &amp; Company at Playa Linda</b>	








PALM BEACH - A truly amazing party was staged by SKOA, employing over 700 teachers in 48 schools all over the island at the Grand Caribbean Ballroom, Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa. Entertained by Grupo di Betico, the program also included a





presentation of the San lovingly prepared by the  
Nicolas schools and an resort's culinary team and  
appearance of SUN, Skolnan included holiday platters  
Uni di Noord. and many local favorites

The festive buffet was



# Eat, Drink & Be Merry

At the Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa



Laguna Restaurant

Wednesday, December 24th, 2008  
Christmas Eve Dinner Buffet \$19.95  
5pm - 10pm

Thursday, December 25th, 2008  
Christmas Day Surprise Breakfast Buffet \$19.95  
7am - 12 noon

Chateaubriand Dinner Buffet. \$19.95  
5pm - 10pm

Friday, December 26th, 2008  
International Seafood Festival Buffet \$19.95  
5pm - 10pm

Wednesday, December 31st, 2008  
Goodbye 2008 Celebration Dinner Buffet \$23.95  
Includes party favors

Saturday, January 1, 2009  
Happy 2009 Breakfast Buffet \$19.95  
7am - 12 noon



Sunset Grille



Wednesday, December 24th, 2008  
Christmas Eve Holiday Dinner \$60.00  
Regular Menu. 5pm - 11pm

Thursday, December 25th, 2008  
Christmas Holiday Dinner \$60.00  
Regular Menu. 5pm - 11pm

Friday, December 26th, 2008  
Holiday Special \$60.00  
Regular Menu. 5pm - 11pm

Wednesday, December 31st, 2008  
Gala Dinner Menu. 5pm - 12 Midnight \$135.00  
Includes premium open bar, party favors  
& midnight Champagne toast



Gilligan's  
Beach Bar & Grill

Wednesday, December 24th, 2008  
Special Holiday Dinner \$18.95  
Regular Menu. 6pm - 10pm

Thursday, December 25th, 2008  
Special Holiday Dinner \$18.95  
Regular Menu. 6pm - 10pm

Wednesday, December 26th, 2008  
Special Holiday Dinner \$18.95  
Regular Menu. 6pm - 10pm

Wednesday, December 31st, 2008  
New Year's Eve Dinner \$85.00  
Dinner from 7pm - 10pm  
Entertainment until 1am  
Includes premium open bar, party favors  
& midnight Champagne toast.

A World of Dining Pleasure Awaits you at...

Price subject to 15% service charge & sales tax  
For Reservations call +297.526.6612 and +297.526.6613  
All Major Credit Cards Accepted

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ARUBA  
RESORT, CASINO & SPA

Radisson.com/aruba



HIV POSITIVE PERSONS CAN AND DO LEAD LONG AND PRODUCTIVE LIVES... WITH YOUR SUPPORT



DISCRIMINATION DOES NOT  
PROTECT AGAINST HIV... IT HURTS

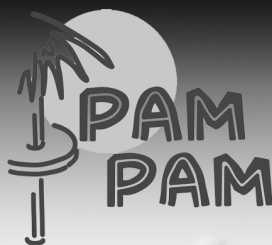


Caribbean Epidemiology Centre (CAREC) - WHO - WHO Special Programme on Sexually Transmitted Infections with support from its partners: Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) - Fresh Technical Cooperation (FTC) - PINCAP - Global Fund and World Bank Projects - United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID) - Caribbean Epidemiology Centre (CAREC) - WHO - WHO, 16-18 Jamaica Boulevard, Foundation Park, Port of Spain, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago - Phone: 868 622 4251 - Fax: 868 622 3951 - Email: jordan@trinidad.who.int - Website: http://www.carec.org - http://www.who.int - 2008

# Divi Accounting Goes to Brazil



*restaurant*



*this month special*

*4 course menu  
only for \$ 17*

*Appetizer; Mostard soup  
Ceasar salad*

*Middle course: kebab pincho served with  
home-made tzatziki*

*Maincourse: Fishstew  
Tenderloin pincho on a bed of spicy vegetables  
Mexican chicken platter*

*Dessert : Brownie with ice cream  
Melon sorbet with ice cream*

*location: Perle d'Or*

*For reservation call : 5877710 /5932660*

PALM BEACH – The accounting office of Divi Aruba Resort, the crew holding the purse-strings of the mega properties opted for a culinary trip to Brazil

on Saturday night as they journeyed to Amazonia Churrascaria on Palm Beach.

The trip from the low rise hotel area to the high rise

hotel area certainly made them hungry as they feasted on grilled-to-perfection meats carried by the gauchos on giant skewers and carved tableside, complemented by the world's best salad bar.

Pictured here, at Amazonia Churrascaria, giving thanks for a good year and looking forward to a new wonderful one, Divi Resorts Accounting. □



**Shop & Go**  
Food & Liquor Store

**NIGHT SHOPPING UNTIL 10:30PM**

Cold Beer prices ranges from \$2.  
Souvenirs a wide variety of snacks.  
Also available Rums made in Aruba  
at a good price.

T-Shirt at \$4. / Aruba bags \$8.

**COLD WINE VARIETY**

Bring this Ad & receive a FREE gift with  
any purches of \$25.

**OPEN Monday-Friday 8:30am - 10:30pm**  
**DAILY Saturday 9:00am - 10:30pm**  
**Sunday 9:00am - 9:00pm**

We're located at walking distance from the High Rise Area.  
You can get your basic food & drink.

**LOCATED AT: 186-D PALM BEACH (next to Dominos Pizza)**  
Tel: 586-1710 • email: shopngo@setarnet.aw



**"FAVI FUNDACION CU VISION"**

# Sunset Grille, a prime Steakhouse also offering Spa Cuisine



PALM BEACH – The Sunset Grille at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa needs no introduction. The award winning American steakhouse with its chic, cosmopolitan atmosphere headlines Prime Beef, the highest grade U.S.D.A -- only 2% of all beef is graded prime, required to age a minimum of 4 weeks. While steaks and chops make up the heart of the menu, the resort's Executive Chef Matt Boland and restaurant Chef Maarten Smeets innovated

unparalleled appetizers and extraordinary desserts, which helped the Sunset Grille achieve the Triple AAA's elite four-diamond status – a rare feat for steakhouses.

Sunset Grille well-known as the number one steakhouse in Aruba offers also spa cuisine, for the health conscious visitors, featuring appetizers, salads and a wide array of seafood selections.

The spa cuisine dishes are balanced by enhancing flavors with citrus, spice and

herbs and taste is elevated by marinating, smoking and grilling, Smeets explains.

"We now use many more herbs, vegetables, grains and fibers," adds Boland, "all designed to sustain a healthier life style; and we stay away from saturated fats and refined sugars, as well as use salt sparingly," he informs.

"The Sunset Grille kitchen," Boland reveals, "uses no trans fats, and our guests," he banter, "stay healthy, wealthy and wise with our new and exciting spa cuisine."

Among the patrons favorite dishes are, the Sunset Grille's famous Chop House Martini Salad, "Shaken not Stirred;" the lobster bisque with a pastry crust, the various cuts of prime beef, the popular Rack of Lamb, Stuffed Quail and the delicious Veal Oscar.

The spa cuisine features items such as Tuna Tataki, the Spinach Salad, Chilean Seabass, grilled Swordfish and the Asian style Salmon and Scallops served with the



popular Soba Noodles.

The Sunset Grille always endeavors to exceed guests' expectations by purchasing the very best products available and preparing them in accordance with a combination of "tried and true" as well as cutting edge contemporary methods, Boland explains.

Simply put, the Sunset Grille culinary team buys the best products, and cooks them the best way they know, refusing to cut corners, especially when it comes to buying, aging and



cutting meat. No wonder the readers of Caribbean Travel & Life named it the top restaurant in the Caribbean. □

Tierra del Sol  
RESORT, SPA AND COUNTRY CLUB

## Ventanas del Mar

# CHRISTMAS DINNER



DECEMBER 24 • 25 • 26

For reservations Call us: 586 7800 • Limited seating

### Amuse

Pan seared jumbo scallop served with wakame salad & pica paya aioli

### Timbale of Tuna and Rock lobster

Timbale of tuna tartar and sautéed langouste served with Wasabi crème fraiche and a crispy salad of pickled mango & bell pepper

### King Crab Corn Soup-Cognac Foam

Coco nut lemon grass crab soup, corn, green scallions, toasted almonds & cognac cream

### Sherbet

Raspberry Sherbet & Vanilla Champagne Coulis

### Grilled Angus Beef Sirloin-Jumbo Tiger Prawns

Wild mushrooms, green asparagus & Jack Daniels sauce

### Nougat Parfait

Saffron Strawberries, caramelized pine apple, Vanilla lemon grass sauce & caramelized chestnuts

Price per person US\$ 65.00 • Plus 15 % service charge & 3% sales tax

## Much more than a sailing trip

*Jolly Pirates provides adventure at each turn*

PALM BEACH - From the moment you step aboard the Jolly Pirates, an authentic sailing experience and unforgettable adventure is assured. The charm of the Old World Schooner is complemented by a colorful crew of personalities who delight in keeping spirits buoyant throughout the trip. The impressive 90-foot teak schooner glides under full sail to the island's best swimming and snorkel sites during either of two popular snorkeling cruises offered each day. Their most requested trip is the morning tour of "Sail, Snorkel, Swim and Swing," which consists of visits to three swim and snorkel sites as well as a BBQ lunch served pirate-style, open bar and running commentary provided by the island's friendliest crew.

The morning snorkel is offered daily, 9:30am - 2pm, and is priced at \$54.60pp. The island's best value is the afternoon "Something Fishy's Going On" tour, offered for only \$34pp. (Tip: Look for your value-added coupon in this newspaper.) Jolly Pirates Sailing and Sunset cruises depart from the MooMba Beach Bar, just between the Marriott and Holiday Inn.



For more information give the Jolly Pirates a shout at Tel: 586-8107 or after hours at Cel: 992 7858. Tickets for the Jolly Pirates and other great tours can be made at the Jolly Pirates Ticket Outlet, located at MooMba Beach Restaurant and Bar between the Marriott and the Holiday Inn

## EXCELSIOR CASINO

is the Home of Aruba's oldest and most famous POKER ROOM

*Live Games start at 5 pm*  
*Tournaments every night at 6 pm*

Monday: \$125 buy-in no re-buys  
Tuesday: \$125 buy-in no rebuys  
Wednesday: \$75 buy-in 2 re-buys + Add-On  
Thursday: \$240 no re-buys  
Friday: \$240 1 re-buy  
Saturday: \$240 no re-buys  
Sunday: \$240 no re-buys

5 TIMES ODDS ON CRAPS  
DOUBLE DECK BLACK JACK  
SPANISH 21  
THREE CARD POKER  
LET-IT-RIDE  
ROULETTE

ONLY CASINO IN ARUBA  
WHERE THE DEALER STANDS  
ON SOFT 17

SPORTS BOOK with LIVE SIMULCAST OF  
MAJOR TRACKS  
**NO CHARGE ON WINNINGS**  
SLOTS OPEN 9 AM  
TABLE GAMES 12:30 PM  
POKER ROOM 5 PM

CONVIENENT PARKING

*Located at the Holiday Inn*  
*Where There's Always A Game*

## It's time again Christmas lunch at Matilde

DOWNTOWN - Matilde will host the perfect Christmas lunch or dinner with family, friends or colleagues! Our restaurant gives you the surrounding you want to celebrate Christmas in style.

We also serve our regular a la carte menu during the holidays. We invite you to have a look at our mouth watering menus, and give us a call to make your reservation.

Our Executive Chef Linda has created various exceptional menus specifically for this year's Christmas Celebrations. We have menus for lunch or dinner, which will let up to hundred persons rejoice in the splendor only on offer at Matilde.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have, we will gladly assist you in making your holidays an unforgettable celebration!



Matilde Restaurant  
Havenstraat 23  
Oranjestad

For reservations please call  
583 9200  
Or e-mail:  
mail@matildearuba.com



**PAGO PAGO**  
*Seafood & Grill Dining*

Enjoy wonderful cuisine as you dine in this unique American steakhouse with a Caribbean flair.

Two diverse culinary worlds are offered: exotic Caribbean food and cowboy-size servings of USDA-certified Black Angus Beef.

**Special offer:**  
Pay just 1/2 price for the first bottle of wine any Tuesday from 6-7:30p.m., with a three-course dinner, two persons minimum.



**baci**  
ristorante

Italian zest for living adds a unique flavor to your dinner at Baci Ristorante. "Bevenuti" to our Old Country piazza.

**Special offer:**  
Enjoy a free birthday dinner (food only, three-course dinner) with a minimum of four persons - ID required.

**THE WESTIN**  
RESORT  
ARUBA



**AZULL**

An epicurean delight located in a romantic setting on a sugary sand beach with a golden glow of a sunset as a backdrop.



**BON BINI**  
cafe

For the best breakfast buffet on the island, start your day right!

**Discover the island's premier collection of dining options**

For hours of operation and reservations please call tel 297.586.4466  
Valid through the months of September & October 2008.

## Beachside Dining in that 'just right' atmosphere Matthew's Beachside Restaurant

EAGLE BEACH - Located at Casa del Mar resort in Eagle Beach, Matthew's is the brain child of Stefan Legger, who owned and operated Rumba Bar & Grill for 6 years. Matthew's redefines the concept of a beachside restaurant, delivering an exquisite blend of fine dining and comfort food with that 'sand on your toes' feeling. The staff is extremely friendly and demonstrate very clearly that they are there for one thing; you.

Also being a very wanted venue for events and weddings, it very advisable to call and make a reservation, but if you want to just give it a go, no problem. Matthew's has a great bar which will keep you abreast of all the action, whether it's sports on one of their 3 TV's, or what cocktails the bartenders can whip up for you. Besides breakfast, lunch and dinner, Matthew's offers all you can eat spareribs on Tuesdays, Champagne brunch on Sundays and of course their famous daily happy hours with live music at the bar.



**Opening Hours**  
Daily from 7:30am till 10:00pm

**Daily Happy Hours**  
Noon - 1:00pm  
4:00pm - 6:00pm (with live music)  
9:00pm - 10:00pm

**For Reservations & Information call:**  
Tel: 588 7300



*At the Crystal Theater*

# “Havana Dance,” is the hottest Cuban show on the island



ORANJESTAD - The elegant Crystal Theater sparkles with all the excitement of Las Vegas as the magnificent “Havana Dance” explodes on stage with a thrilling mix of Latin & Cuban music, colorful costumes and high energy, contemporary Cuban



dance.

“Havana Dance” is the biggest stage production in the Caribbean, featuring Cuban dancers and entertainers directly from Havana. The show delivers a purely Cuban spectacle, with a cast of 12 female ballerinas, 4 male dancers, 2 singers and 3 acrobats, performing a fresh program accompanied by live Cuban music performed on stage by a genuine Cuban orchestra, consisting of 5 professional Cuban musicians. This live dance AND live music combination as seen in our pictures, is ‘first of its kind’ on the island.

While the greater part of the “Havana Dance” review enjoys predominantly Cuban flavor, the show is graced with a truly unique Caribbean choreography, and many tropical touches. “Havana Dance” unfolds on a two-tiered stage, with entrances and exits to and off the arena at different heights, which presents a



new visual concept. The custom-designed costumes are sensual, daring, colorful, and luxurious and set “Havana Dance” apart from any other cabaret.

Producer Steve Hudson who enjoyed an unprecedentedly-successful seven-year run with his previous “Let’s Go Latin” review, conceived and created an exciting and much-evolved new must-see spectacle.

Tickets for “Havana Dance” are US\$ 49.- Children under 12 pay US\$25.-

Tickets are available at the theater box office, Renaissance Aruba Resort, and can also be purchased

at the concierge’s desk at the Renaissance Aruba Resort. Other ticket vendors include the De Palm Tours and Pelican Adventure Activity Centers at the resorts. A special dinner & show package is also available in conjunction with the L.G. Smith’s Steak & Chop House for US\$89.- per person. For additional information and reservations call the Crystal Theatre at Tel.: 583 6000, ext. 6115, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. After 5 p.m., call tel.: 583 6000 ext. 6357. Don’t miss an opportunity to be greatly entertained by the sizzle of “Havana Dance.” □

## Stop at the Juggling Fish, Playa Linda Beach Resort before you hit the beach



Palm Beach – From sexy to conservative, you will find bathing suits in all styles and colors at the just-recently-renovated Juggling Fish Boutique on the seaside boardwalk at Playa Linda Beach Resort.

Any Aruba vacation is a beach-holiday and many island visitors join the locals where the surf meets the sand, enjoying a fresh combination of sun & sea for a week.

Not before buying a new bathing suit. Which is often a daunting task.



Not at the Juggling Fish. There, it is bathing suit shopping made easy!

You will find an extensive collection of swim wear at the Juggling Fish, which is open daily from 9am to 7am, also on Sunday 10am to 6pm, to accommodate busy schedules. You will find bathing suits for the entire family including babies, boys, girls, teenagers, young adults, moms and dads; even grandpas and

grandmas are guaranteed to find some fetching pairs of swim trunks, or two-piece tankinis. And the bikini bathing suits are mix and match, tops and bottoms sold separately, for a perfect fit. Beach sandals, beach bags, towels and accessories, anything beach related is available at the cute store. Tel: 586 7948. Got a question or a special request? Email: [orders@alamanderholdings.com](mailto:orders@alamanderholdings.com) □

*Michael Bremo & Lidrick Solognier to attend a percussion clinic in Holland*

## Aruba Bank Sponsors two students of Music School Rufo Wever

ORANJESTAD – Recently, Aruba Bank made a generous donation of two airline tickets to two students of the Rufo Wever Music School so they may attend various music clinics in Holland. By doing this Aruba Bank is displaying his attention and dedication to our culture, music and youth.

Aruba Bank together with Orco Bank and the Nederlandse Blazers Ensemble (NBE) made it possible for two students of music, Michael Bremo & Lidrick Solognier, can attend various percussion clinics with different professional musicians. This clinic will take place from, December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008 to January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009. Michael & Lidrick are excited with the opportunity which will end with a presentation together with NBE at the famous New Years Concert that is frequented by our Queen Beatrix. This concert will be televised live by BVN the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2009 at 8:00pm here in Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao from the concert hall in Amsterdam.

Last September Aruba Bank and Orco Bank sponsored the “Brisas di Musica” concert at Cas di Cultura. It was a very exclusive and successful event of NBE.

NBE is a group of professional musicians that do local and international presentations. At least twice a year they perform internationally, where they incorporate traditional rhythms of the island and aspects of the local culture to their music. They are also known to perform with local youths and artists. NBE came to the Caribbean of the Dutch Reign to do a presentation in Aruba, Bonaire on Wilhelminaplein and also in Curacou at Brakkeput Mei Mei.

Clients of Aruba Bank that attended this presentation were enchanted by this musical group. Especially when they invited Aruba's pride Delbert Bernabela, Alydia Wever and also 4 students of the music school on stage to perform with them. To finalize the evening, Mr. Edwin Tromp, CEO of Aruba Bank was invited to come on stage with his Guitar to perform a variety of local songs with the Musical Group NBE. In November Aruba Bank gave a check to the Music School, which was a donation of funds received from the NBE concert and Aruba Bank. Aruba Bank would like to wish Lidrick and Michael a

lot of success during their trip to Holland and would like to invite the Aruban community to tune in to BVN on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 at 8:00pm.

This contribution goes to show that Aruba Bank continuously cooperates with the musical development of our youth and also the cultural future of Aruba.



# 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL 2008 WORLD CUP OF POKER

## Over \$28,000

Prize Money Each of the Last Four years

## & \$11,000

First Place Last Year!!!

*The Championship of Aruba,  
Venezuela, Holland, USA  
and other participating countries.....*

### NO LIMIT TEXAS HOLD'EM POKER TOURNAMENT:

- \* \$500 Buy -In (\$440 entry +\$60 fee), No Re-buys or Add-Ons !!!
- \* All Players will start with \$4,000 in tournament chips!!!
- \* Blind and Limits will go up every 30 Minutes until the tournament concludes & NO ANTES!!!!

**WHEN: Saturday, December 27th,  
2008 @ 5:30 p.m.**

**WHERE: POKER ROOM at the Radisson**

**All prize money goes back to the players.  
And, we verify all Buy-Ins.**



**TOURNAMENT IS LIMITED TO 80 PLAYERS, SO SIGN UP NOW IN THE POKER ROOM!**

# Three minutes before Xmas

By Roland W. Peterson

It is two days before Xmas and Santa Claus is very nervous. He is pacing back and forth. He is making phone calls and is drinking a lot of black coffee. He does not know what to do. Santa...Santa what is wrong? Well it is two days before Xmas and Rudolf the Red Nose Reindeer is still sick. Rudolf has the flu and is coughing all day. He is sneezing and has the fever.

Well...if you thought that his nose was red, you should see it now. It is glowing even more. Santa took Rudolf to the doctor and Rudolf must not leave the stable. Who is going to lead Santa's sleigh? For many years now Rudolf has lead Santa's sleigh. He is the one that is in front of the other reindeers. Rudolf knows all the addresses of the children by heart. In all the years he has never forgotten

one child. But now that he cannot leave the stable, who is going to lead Santa's sleigh? Now we understand why Santa is so upset and worried.

It is two days before Xmas and Santa has no one to lead his sleigh. Two more days and Santa must deliver the gifts to the children. What is Santa going to do? It is three o'clock in the morning and Santa still can not sleep. He is thinking and thinking. He does not have a solution. Well now he has decided that he will cancel his trip this year to Aruba, because he cannot find a reindeer who knows all the children on Aruba. Santa does not want to do this, but he has no other choice.

Santa decides to call the Governor and tell him that he has cancelled his trip to Aruba because Rudolf the Red Nose reindeer is sick and he has no

other reindeer to lead his sleigh. Santa, who has a "hotline" with the Governor calls him around four o'clock in the morning. The Governor who was fast asleep woke up when the phone rang. Who could it be, calling at this time at night? The Governor was a little upset, but when he heard Santa's voice he was pleasantly surprised.

Santa told the Governor his problem and said that he would have to cancel his trip to Aruba, which means that the children would not receive any gifts this year. Now the Governor is also worried. This cannot happen. But what can he do? Santa told the Governor that when he has a solution to call him back.

O...o now the Governor is also with his hands on his head. What must he do? He cannot sleep anymore. He is thinking, pondering, thinking and thinking. Finally he has an

idea. Before sunrise he called his driver to come to him. The driver was very surprised because never before did the Governor wake him up so early. The Governor told the driver that Santa has called him and what the problem was. When the Governor got into his car he told the driver to take the road to the North coast and that underway he would tell him where he was going. The driver jokingly said then: "Mister Governor, it is not the North coast we have to go to, it looks like you have to go to the North Pole." The Governor who knew what he was going to do just shook his head and with a smile answered: "Don't worry, just do what I told you." Underway the Governor told the driver that they had to go to the cunucu of Shon Waki.

When they arrived in front of the house of Shon Waki he was sitting under the kwihi tree drinking coffee. Very surprised Shon Waki kept staring at the big car as it stopped in front of his house,...and who gets out, the Governor. Shon Waki took a big sip of his coffee and almost burned his lips. "Mr. Governor, what can I do for you? Did you loose your way?" "No mister Shon Waki, it is you I am looking for." The Governor then told Shon Waki his problem. Shon Waki told the Governor that he kept goats and not reindeers. The governor told Shon Waki that he had read in children's storybooks about the little goat with one horn, called Meki, who was the hero of all the goats, and that Meki knew all the children's addresses on Aruba. Shon Waki told the Governor that Meki could do many things and...that he knew all the children of Aruba that was the truth, but fly in the sky in front of a sleigh ... oh no that he cannot do. The Governor then said that he would call Santa Claus and tell him about Meki.

That same day the Governor called Santa and told him about Meki. That Meki could do many things and that he knew all the children, but fly in the sky, that he could not do. Santa told the Governor what he had to do. At exact three minutes before Xmas the Governor has to return to Shon Waki and has to tell Meki something.

That day Shon Waki told little

Meki what he would have to do. Poor little Meki became very scared and nervous, because flying in the sky over the roofs of the houses, is something he never did before. All the reindeers have big beautiful horns, he only had one little horn. Shon Waki told Meki that everything would be alright and that the Governor would come back at three minutes before Xmas!

As promised, at exactly three minutes before Xmas the governor returned to the cunucu of Shon Waki. Poor little Meki was so afraid. His little legs were trembling. His head was hanging down and his little eyes were closed. As promised the Governor went to little Meki and whispered something in his left ear. Right away Meki raised his head and opened his eyes very wide. His little legs stopped trembling. He had a smile on his face. Meki was so exited that he stood up on his two hind legs and pushed his little chest forward.

What is it that the Governor told Meki in his ear? It has to be some "Magic words." Suddenly they heard bells ringing in the sky. Ata ... Santa Claus has arrived with his sleigh. The sleigh was filled with gifts. Rudolf was not in front. When Santa landed, together with Shon Waki they put little Meki in front of the reindeers. Little Meki was very proud. With a big smile on his face he was pushing his chest forward.

Santa got back on the sleigh and in a wink of an eye they were in the sky, with Meki, with his one horn, leading the sleigh. Santa waved to the Governor and Shon Waki. Meki winked an eye to them. Meki with his little horn looked very cute.

That Xmas night Meki guided Santa to the homes of the all the children of Aruba. And so ... when they woke up Xmas morning all the children had their gifts. It was the first time in the history of Xmas that a little Aruban goat guided Santa's sleigh. And so Meki made sure all the children got their gifts for Xmas.

But one thing will always remain a secret. No one never knew what Santa told the Governor to whisper in Meki's ear at exactly "Three minutes before Xmas." Forever and ever that will be a secret between the Governor and Santa. □



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VENUE: CHRIST CHURCH, BETHEL &  
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**A MERRY CHRISTMAS &  
A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL**

*A big birthday surprise*

# Texas de Brazil hosts a special night out



host intimate celebrations with a dozen or so guests. We wish Milagros a happy birthday and many happy returns from all of us at the Aruba Today. ☐

~Photos by JJ~



PALM BEACH – Texas de Brazil Churrascaria was the logical choice for Milagros Loyas as the venue for her birthday party. As the party of seven enjoyed the finest cuts of beef, pork lamb and sausages, as full blown band played the finest music for the birthday girl.

As icing on the cake, Texas de Brazil had arranged for a band

of Mariachi to come and play as well.

It was not long before people left and right got up and danced to the wonderful music. Texas de Brazil is the all time favorite “celebration” location where groups enjoy toasting to happy occasions with a never ending flow of food and libations. There is even a private wine room to

**Post Aruba** wishes you to enjoy all the timeless treasures of Christmas and New Year!!!

***Merry Christmas and a Prosperous 2009***



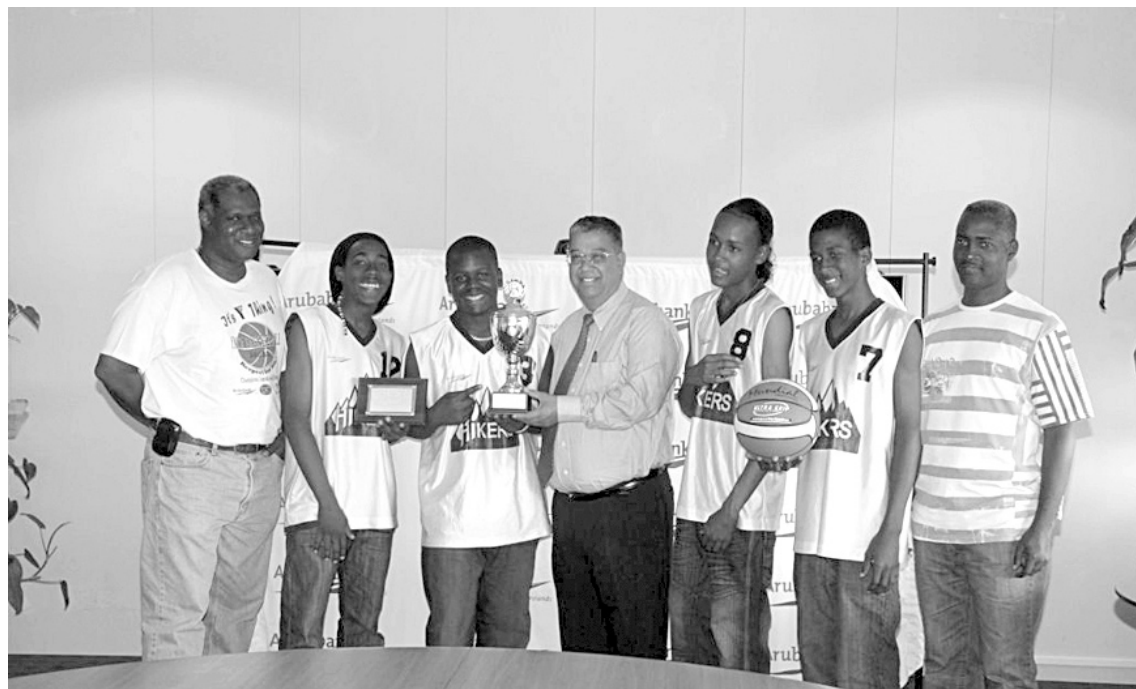
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# Aruba Bank Hiker Basketball Team award the Title of "Champions"



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ORANJESTAD - During a short ceremony, Aruba bank celebrated the victory of their sponsored basketball team, "Aruba Bank Hikers", whom were recently titled champions in a championship event organized by the Aruba Basketball Bond. "We are very proud with your accomplishment. Your discipline, dedication and perseverance where rewarded with the title of champions," so said Edwin tromp, CEO of Aruba Bank at the celebration event. Aruba Bank for many years has been sponsoring sporting teams, complying with the social responsibility they have with our community. "We believe it's important for us to continue promoting sports, continue promoting physical education and keep promoting

healthy living, especially amongst our youth. We strongly believe in the saying: "healthy body, healthy mind," so Edwin Tromp concluded his speech. On the adjacent pictures one can appreciate how the management of Aruba Bank, celebrated with the champion basketball team here in Aruba.



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June 30th, 2008



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**WILLIAM ALVAREZ CANO**

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Jeff Olson puts the finishing touches on an eight-foot snowman built by him and his girlfriend Veronica Nim in front of Nim's house on Fauntleroy Way in West Seattle on Monday, Dec. 22, 2008.

### Winter visits with a vengeance from East to West

By POLLY ANDERSON

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) - Bone-numbing cold spread Monday from the American Midwest to the East as tens of thousands remained without power. Snowfall in northern New England topped 40 inches in one town, and travel remained disrupted days before Christmas.

Apart from northern New England, snowfall was relatively scant in the Midwest and East, but ice and high wind whipped up snow along roadways and made driving hazardous for holiday travelers.

Snowfall totals in Maine, New Hampshire and parts of Massachusetts topped a foot or more.

The town of Eustis in western Maine received a whopping 41.8 inches by Monday morning. Eric Schwibs from the National Weather Service called it "the sweet spot of the storm."

For residents, however, it wasn't so sweet.

"It's beautiful but it's a little crazy," said Linda Shane, who had to call for help when the snow jammed her car doors shut as she tried to get out of her driveway.

In New Hampshire, the deep snow added to the misery for nearly 11,000 customers still in the dark from an ice storm more than a week earlier.

*Continued on Page B5*

# 5 convicted of plotting to kill Fort Dix soldiers



In this Oct. 20, 2008 file photo is an artist's drawing showing defendants Shain Duka, bottom left, Eljvir Duka, Dritan Duka, Mohamad Ibrahim Shnewer and Serdar Tatar in a federal courtroom in Camden, N.J., Monday, Oct. 20, 2008. The jury has reached a verdict in the case of five men accused of plotting an attack on the Army's Fort Dix.

Associated Press

*Continued on Page B3*

## U.S. warns Russia against selling missiles to Iran

By LOLITA C. BALDOR

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) - U.S. officials said Monday that they want answers from Russia about whether it is selling advanced surface-to-air missiles to Iran, which the United States insists could threaten American troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

A senior military intelligence official said that while Moscow has sent out conflicting responses to reports on sales of long-range S-300 missiles, the United States believes they are occurring. It appears, however, that no equipment has been delivered to Iran, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter.

Russia's state arms export agency said Monday it is supplying Iran with defensive weapons, including surface-to-air missiles, but did not say whether they include sophisticated long-range S-300 missiles.

State Department spokesman Robert Wood said the United States is seeking clarification from Russia.

"We have repeatedly made clear at senior levels of the Russian government that we would strongly oppose the sale of the S-300," said Wood. "As the U.S. government has said before, this is not the time for business as usual with the Iranian government."

Iran currently has an antiquated missile defense system, dating back to the 1960s and 1970s, so the Russian sale would provide Tehran a much longer range, more mobile and lethal capability.

*Continued on Page B4*



Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin chairs a Cabinet meeting in Moscow, on Monday, Dec. 22, 2008. Putin called Monday for increasing sanctions for government officials who violate competition rules, ITAR-Tass news agency reported.

Associated Press

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## Manslaughter charges brought in ground zero fire



John Galt Corp. foreman Salvatore DePaola exits Manhattan criminal court, after posting bail, Monday, Dec. 22, 2008, in New York. Three construction supervisors and a subcontractor were indicted Monday on manslaughter charges in the 2007 deaths of two firefighters at a skyscraper at ground zero, capping a complex 16-month investigation that exposed numerous failures by city officials.

By **SAMUEL MAULL** and **AMY WESTFELDT**

Associated Press Writers

NEW YORK (AP) - Three construction supervisors and a subcontractor have been

indicted on manslaughter charges in the 2007 deaths of two firefighters at a skyscraper near the World Trade Center site.

The move capped a complex

16-month investigation that exposed numerous failures by city officials.

Firefighters Robert Beddia and Joseph Graffagnino were found dead of smoke inhalation

*Associated Press*

in the former Deutsche Bank tower, a building heavily damaged in the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

The tragedy demonstrated a series of failures at the project, including no standpipe to supply water to the upper floors.

The people charged include two senior officials at subcontractor John Galt Corp. and a manager with general contractor Bovis Lend Lease, the Manhattan District Attorney's office said. The Galt company is also being charged.

Jeffrey Melofchik, Mitchel Alvo and Salvatore DePaola pleaded not guilty in state Supreme Court in Manhattan to charges of manslaughter, criminally negligent homicide and reckless endangerment. Each could face up to 15 years in prison if convicted of second-degree manslaughter.

A construction worker's carelessly tossed cigarette caused the Aug. 18, 2007, fire, but the tragedy demonstrated a series of failures: The pipe supplying water to fire hoses

was broken and the sprinklers didn't work, stairwells were blocked with plywood paneling meant to keep toxic debris in, no working elevator existed inside the building, and an air pressure system created more smoke.

"Everybody who could have screwed up, screwed up here," District Attorney Robert Morgenthau said of the fire.

The city had acknowledged failing to inspect the building for fire hazards, but was not charged in the deaths. Prosecutors reached an agreement with the city and Bovis Lend Lease that require them to institute major safety measures.

The 41-story tower had been dismantled to 26 stories before the fire, and still stands that tall just across from the World Trade Center site.

The building's removal had been stalled previously by the discovery of hundreds of Sept. 11 victims' body parts left in the building and other accidents, one that sent a pipe through the roof of the neighboring firehouse. □

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HAVANA



Defense attorneys, Richard Sparaco, left, Troy Archie, second left, Rocco Cipperone, center, Mike Riley, second right, and Michael Huff, right, listen to a question from the media after their clients, five Muslim immigrants were convicted Monday, Dec. 22, 2008, of plotting to massacre U.S. soldiers at a New Jersey military installation in a case that tested the FBI's post-Sept. 11, 2001, strategy of infiltrating and breaking up terrorist conspiracies in their earliest stages. The men could get life in prison if they are sentenced in April.

#### FORT DIX

*Continued from Page B1*

Four defendants were also convicted of weapons charges.

The federal jury deliberated for 38 hours over six days.

The government said after the arrests in 2007 that case underscored the dangers of terrorist plots hatched on U.S. soil. Although investigators said the conspirators were inspired by Osama bin Laden, they were not accused of any ties to foreign terror groups.

Defense lawyers argued that the alleged plot was all talk \_ that the men weren't seriously planning anything and that they were manipulated and goaded by two paid FBI informants.

Faten Shnewer, the mother of defendant Mohamad Shnewer, said the informants should be the ones in jail. "Not my son and his friends. It's not right, it's not justice," she said after the verdict. The government "sent somebody to push him to say something; that's it."

Convicted were: Shnewer, a Jordanian-born cab driver; Turkish-born convenience store clerk Serdar Tatar; and brothers Dritan, Eljvir and Shain Duka, ethnic Albanians from the former Yugoslavia, who had a roofing business. A sixth man arrested and charged only with firearms offenses pleaded guilty earlier.

"These criminals had the capacity and had done preparations to do serious and grievous harm to members of our military," Ralph Marra, the acting U.S. attorney for New Jersey, said after the verdict.

But some Muslim leaders in New Jersey disputed that.

"I don't think they actually mean to do anything," said Mohamed Younes, president of the American Muslim Union. "I think they were acting stupid, like they thought the whole thing was a joke."

Jim Sues, executive director of the New Jersey chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, said: "Many people in the Muslim community will see this as a case of entrapment. From what I saw, there was a significant role played by the government informant."

The yearlong investigation began after a store

clerk told the FBI that some customers had asked him to transfer onto DVD some video footage of them firing assault weapons and screaming about jihad.

The FBI asked two informants \_ both foreign-born men who entered the U.S. illegally and had criminal records \_ to befriend the suspects. Both informants were paid and were offered help obtaining legal resident status.

During the eight-week trial, the government relied heavily on information gathered by the informants, who secretly recorded hundreds of conversations.

Prosecutors said the men bought several assault rifles supplied by the FBI and that they trekked to Pennsylvania's Pocono Mountains to practice their shooting. The government also presented dozens of jihadist speeches and videos that the men supposedly used as inspiration.

According to prosecutors, the group chose the Army post at Fort Dix because one of the defendants was familiar with it. His father's pizza shop delivered to the New Jersey base, which is 25 miles (40 kilometers) from Philadelphia and used primarily to train reservists for duty in Iraq. The group's objective was to kill "as many American soldiers as possible," prosecutors said. But the men's lawyers attacked the credibility of the informants and accused them of instigating the plot. After the verdict, Schnewer's attorney, Rocco Cipparone, said there would not have been a conspiracy without the involvement of the informants. "I believe they shaped the evidence," he said.

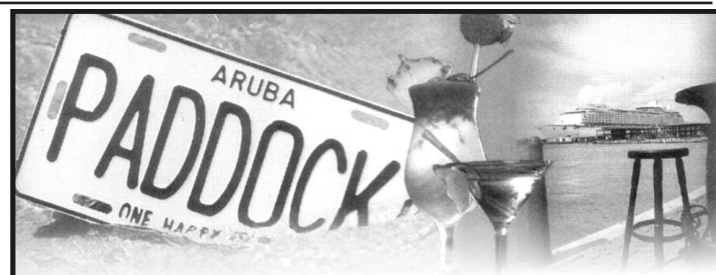
Prosecutor William Fitzpatrick defended the government's handling of the case, telling the jury: "The FBI investigates crime on the front end. They don't want to have to do it on the back end."

Members of the jury would not speak to reporters after the verdict and instead released a statement that said, in part, "This has been one of the most difficult things that we have ever had to do."

None of the defendants testified.

The government said after the men's arrest that an attack was imminent, though prosecutors backed off that assertion at the trial. □

*Associated Press*



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## Former presidents named to co-chair inauguration



Former President Bill Clinton visits with people after a news conference, Saturday, Dec. 13, 2008 in Little Rock, Ark. Clinton announced a partnership between the state of Arkansas and the Clinton Foundation's Clinton Climate Initiative that will address climate change by reducing greenhouse emissions in Arkansas.

WASHINGTON — Former Presidents Jimmy Carter, George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton are among more than a dozen honorary co-chairs of President-elect Barack Obama's inauguration. The group announced Monday by the Presidential Inaugural

Committee also includes retired Gen. Colin Powell, relatives of Obama and Vice President-elect Joe Biden, and members of Congress from both parties, including Illinois' senior senator, Democrat Dick Durbin, and Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind.

*Associated Press*  
The committee also said Monday that it had asked the Special Olympics to march in the inaugural parade. The group said it would carry its "flame of hope," a torch that has been traveling the globe for nearly a month ahead of the Special Olympics Winter

Games in February.

The inaugural committee has not finalized what role the co-chairs will play in the Jan. 20 inauguration, but described the group as "prominent Americans from both sides of the aisle who have dedicated their lives to selfless service to their fellow citizens."

Also named as co-chairs are Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo.; Rep. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis.; Rep. Artur Davis, D-Ala.; Rep. Linda Sanchez, D-Calif., and retiring Rep. Ray Lahood, R-Ill., Obama's choice for transportation secretary. Obama's sister, Maya Soetoro-Ng, and brother-in-law, Craig Robinson, also will serve, along with Biden's son and daughter-in-law, Hunter and Kathleen Biden.

"From family members to former presidents, each of these leaders has an unwavering commitment to bipartisan cooperation and a proud record of service to their community and our country," Obama said in a statement. □

### RUSSIA

*Continued from Page B1*

With a range of roughly 75 miles, the Russian system would allow Iran to reach coalition forces operating in Iraq and Afghanistan, if the missiles were moved near the borders.

Both the United States and Israel have opposed such sales strongly, saying that supplying such an advanced anti-aircraft system to Iran would shift the military balance of power in the Middle East. It also would make any strike at Iran's first nuclear power plant, which Russia is helping to build, more difficult.

There have been indications that Russia intends to supply only defensive weapons to Iran, which would keep the sales in line with U.N. Security Council resolutions that impose sanctions against Iran for refusing to halt its uranium enrichment and ban supplying Iran with materials that could contribute to an alleged nuclear weapons ambitions. Officials acknowledge that the sale of the S-300 system is not prohibited by the resolution. Israel and the United States fear that Iran could use the S-300 missiles to protect its uranium enrichment plant at Natanz or the country's first atomic power plant now under construction at Bushehr by Russian contractors. The United States and other nations believe Iran is secretly developing nuclear weapons, but Iran insists its uranium enrichment program is intended solely for civilian energy needs. While the possibility that the United States might launch an attack against Iran's nuclear facilities faded about a year ago, Israel has never ruled out a strike of its own and is considered the nation that would be most likely to take such action. Iran's president has said that Israel should be "wiped off the map." □

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1767	11:41A	Cancelled
3493	11:05A B6	On-Time
7040	5:44A S8	Arrived
617	9:40A C15	Landed
619	11:52A	Cancelled
294	10:05A A10	On-Time
781	10:00A	Cancelled
451	11:20A N14	Now 11:12A
6105	11:20A N15	On-Time
7040	5:44A S8	Arrived
6574	11:36A	Cancelled
5029	11:22A	Cancelled
171	11:04A	Cancelled
269	7:35P- A7	Cancelled
627	11:56A	Now 11:49A

**A flight status board at the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport lists cancelled flights Monday, Dec. 22, 2008 in Seattle.**

*Associated Press*

## WINTER

*Continued from Front Page*

The system also brought snow and cold rain to mid-Atlantic states over the weekend, and much of the region shivered with freezing temperatures and strong wind gusts that made it seem even colder.

The cold also added to power-outage headaches in the Midwest. Nearly 50,000 customers remain without power across northern Indiana because of last week's ice storm. There were also more than 7,000 customers still out in Illinois on Monday and about 5,000 in northwest Ohio.

In the Seattle area, hard hit by a rare snowstorm over the weekend, limited service resumed Monday at Sea-Tac Airport, but thousands of people were stranded because of all the flight cancellations over the weekend.

Sea-Tac spokesman Perry Cooper said Monday the airport had been distributing water and blankets and he hopes no one stranded Monday will still be on hold at Christmas.

The Portland, Oregon, airport also had many flight cancellations, though it remained open.

On the other side of the country, about 250 stranded passengers, including children, spent the night at Reagan National Airport near Washington, D.C. The weather contributed to a rash of traffic accidents. Indiana State Police said four people were killed Sunday when a car spun out of control on an icy toll road and was struck by a semitrailer. In southwestern Michigan, about 30 vehicles were involved in a series of pileups on a stretch of Interstate 94. One person was killed. □

# Investigators enter jet wreckage at Denver airport

By COLLEEN SLEVIN

Associated Press Writer

DENVER (AP) - Investigators climbed inside the cracked, charred wreckage of a Continental Airlines jet Monday, searching for clues about why the plane veered off a Denver International Airport runway and slid into a ravine. The twin-engine Boeing 737-500 still sat in the snow-covered ravine where it came to rest after its aborted takeoff Saturday at Denver International Airport. Behind it, a 2,500-foot -long scar through the grass and snow marked the plane's path.

National Transportation Safety Board investigators conducted preliminary reviews of the cockpit voice recorder and the flight data recorder on Sunday, agency spokesman Peter Knudson said.

Investigators planned to interview the captain and the first officer on Monday, but it was not immediately clear if that had happened by early evening. Continental spokeswoman Kelly Cripe said the captain was injured and was still hospitalized on

Monday, but she declined to release his condition.

FAA records show the plane, built in 1994, had to make an emergency landing in Denver in 1995 when one of its two engines failed, but the aircraft touched down safely and no injuries were reported. The engine was replaced.

The latest accident forced the 115 passengers and crew aboard Flight 1404 to flee through emergency exits as the plane burned.

The jet had shed its left engine and both main landing gears. The entire right side of the jet was burned, and melted plastic from overhead compartments dripped onto the seats.

Of the 38 people injured, at least five remained in Denver hospitals Monday, one in serious condition, one in fair condition and three in good condition. Knudson said one member of the cockpit crew was injured, but it wasn't immediately clear whether it was the captain or first officer, and Knudson didn't know how seriously.

The NTSB took reporters and photographers to the



Part of the landing gear sits along a service road away from the wreckage of a Continental Airlines jetliner during a press briefing at the crash site on Monday, Dec. 22, 2008, in Denver. The craft veered off a runway while trying to take off from Denver International Airport in Denver late on Saturday, Dec. 20.

*Associated Press*

scene Monday afternoon. The charred right side of the plane was punctured by a jagged hole, and debris was strewn across the grassy slope.

Skid marks in the snow and scrapes in the ground showed that after veering off the runway, the plane crossed a flat grassy strip and a taxiway before speeding over an embankment, where the tracks disappear for a short distance - indicating the plane may have gone airborne briefly.

The tracks reappear in a snowy bowl and continue up a small

hill, across a paved access road and back down a small hill into the ravine, where the plane finally stopped.

"It didn't really sound like an explosion.

It was more like a big thud," said Maria Trejos, 30, who was sitting on the right side of the plane with her husband, who had their 1-year-old son on his lap.

She told The Associated Press on Monday that she thought the plane was about to take off when it veered off the left side of the runway. □

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# United Nation extends protection for Iraqi assets



By **EDITH M. LEDERER**  
Associated Press Writer  
UNITED NATIONS (AP) - In a move sought by Iraq at a critical transition, the Security Council voted unanimously Monday to maintain U.N. protection for billions of

dollars of Iraqi assets against seizure by governments, companies or individuals until the end of 2009. Iraq's financial assets, oil shipments and property are currently shielded by a U.N. resolution authorizing the

U.S.-led multinational force in Iraq, which expires on Dec. 31. It is being replaced by a new U.S.-Iraq security pact, but the Iraqi government wanted the U.N. protection to continue so it sought a new resolution.

Iraq's Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki wrote to council members that the government inherited debts and claims from Saddam Hussein's 23-year rule and has made "great progress" in settling them. But he said "much remains to be done" and the government needs its oil money and other assets.

"Oil revenues constitute 95 percent of government resources," al-Maliki wrote, "and these claims have an impact on reconstruction and the economic transformations taking place in Iraq, and consequently pose a grave threat to Iraq's stability and security and by extension to international peace and security."

Revenues from Iraq's oil and natural gas exports are held in the Development Fund for Iraq set up in 2003. It has about \$20 billion, from which the Iraqi government withdraws as required. The Iraqi central bank's foreign reserves, more than \$40 billion, are in another fund.

The resolution adopted Monday keeps the fund operating and authorizes the International Advisory and Monitoring Board to continue overseeing it until Dec. 31, 2009.

It extends a provision in a 2003 Security Council resolution stating that "petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas originating in Iraq shall be immune ... from legal proceedings against them and not be subject to any form of attachment, garnishment or execution" until delivered to the purchaser.

The resolution grants the same immunity and protections to Iraqi assets from Saddam's regime \_ but not for "any final judgment arising out of a contractual obligation entered into by Iraq after June 30, 2004."

Similar legal protection under an executive order signed by U.S. President George W. Bush expires in May, and Iraq is expected to seek an extension of that order as well.

U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad welcomed the progress that Iraq has made, saying "the number of attacks are down, Iraqi capabilities are up."

He said the resolution "helps facilitate more progress" by giving immunity to the funds that the government can use for development.

Iraq's Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari told the council after the vote that without legal protection, "the functioning of the Iraqi government and the current stability could be seriously endangered."

Looking ahead, Zebari said, "it is with cautious confidence that we enter into a new phase

of security arrangements beyond United Nations mandate of support."


Under the new U.S.-Iraq security pact, American forces are required to withdraw from Iraqi cities by June 30 and the entire country by Jan. 1, 2012.

Zebari said Iraq continues to need "a significant level of security and military support" and additional efforts to build up the country's security forces.

"Our hard-won achievements have to be passed on and made durable," he said. "The threats to our fledgling democracy persist." "Although appalling terror attacks fail to ignite the same spiral of sectarian conflict we experienced in recent years, any premature military withdrawals would leave behind a vulnerable vacuum that would be exploited to destabilize Iraq and threatens the entire region," he warned. "Iraq urges gradual measures and responsible security transitions," Zebari said.

Noting next week's termination of the multinational force mandate, he said Iraq wanted to send "a very important message of thanks to the men and women ... who have fought with us on the front lines."

"Iraq owes you a debt of gratitude and we share our condolences with you for the sacrifices that this historical struggle has required. Our joint losses have not been in vain, nor will ever be forgotten," Zebari said. □



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PG-13	<b>THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES</b>	daily: 5:20 matinee: 12:40	7:40 3:00	10:00 late show: 12:20
PG-13	<b>THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL</b>	daily: 5:15 matinee: 12:35	7:35 2:55	9:50 late show: 12:15
R	<b>SEX DRIVE</b>	daily: 8:05 matinee:		10:25 late show: 12:40
PG	<b>BOLT</b>	daily: 4:10 matinee: 12:00	6:10 2:10	8:20 late show: 12:25
PG	<b>MADAGASCAR 2</b>	daily: 4:05 matinee: 12:05	6:10 2:05	late show:

AT PASEO HERENCIA				
PG-13	<b>SEVEN POUNDS</b>	daily: 5:00 matinee: 11:55	7:35 2:30	10:10 late show: 12:40
PG-13	<b>TWILIGHT</b>	daily: 4:50 matinee: 11:50	7:20 2:20	9:50 late show: 12:20
PG-13	<b>FOUR CHRISTMASES</b>	daily: 4:25 matinee: 12:45	6:15 2:35	8:05 late show: 11:45
PG-13	<b>THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL</b>	daily: 5:20 matinee: 12:45	7:40 3:05	10:10 late show: 12:25
PG	<b>BOLT</b>	daily: 4:15 matinee: 12:05	6:20 2:10	8:30 late show: 12:30
R	<b>BODIES OF LIES</b>	daily: 7:40 matinee:		10:00 late show: 12:35
PG	<b>MADAGASCAR 2</b>	daily: 3:50 matinee: 12:00	5:45 1:55	late show:

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# Afghan leader presses U.S. military on strategy

By JASON STRAZIUSO

Associated Press Writer

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) - President Hamid Karzai pressed America's top military leader Monday on the U.S. strategy in Afghanistan as it prepares to pour up to 30,000 more forces into the country. Karzai asked Adm. Mike Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, what kinds of operations the newly deployed troops would carry out and said the Afghan government should be consulted about those operations.

Mullen over the weekend announced that the U.S. would send an additional 20,000 to 30,000 troops to Afghanistan by summer, reflecting the deteriorating security situation around the country more than seven years after the U.S. invasion.

Karzai's office said in a statement that Mullen told the president the new troops would be sent to dangerous regions with little security, particularly along the Pakistan border.

Mullen on Saturday told reporters that NATO and the U.S. have "enough forces to be successful in combat, but we haven't had enough forces to hold the territory that we clear."

The Afghan president also told Mullen that the troops need to be careful in Afghan villages. Karzai has long decried the civilian casualties caused by some military operations.

Elsewhere, a joint U.S.-Afghan operation along the border with Pakistan has killed about 20 insurgent fighters over the last month, an Afghan governor said.

The Afghan and U.S. forces taking part in Operation Lion Heart are trying pressure militants along the border between Afghanistan's Kunar province and the Bajur region in Pakistan.

Pakistani forces are conducting their own operation in Bajur in coordination with the U.S. and Afghan forces.

The Ministry of Defense

said Monday that dozens of militants have been killed and wounded over the last month. A spokesman said he couldn't give more precise numbers.

In this Dec. 13, 2008 file photo, Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai speaks during a news conference in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Associated Press



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## 'Sopranos' actor cleared of murder in NYPD death



Actor Lillo Brancato, Jr. is shown in this Feb. 2005, file photo in New York. Brancato is charged with second-degree murder in the 2005 shooting death of Officer Daniel Enchautegui. A mistrial was avoided in his trial after it was discovered a juror had been taking notes during testimony and doing research on the case at home. Brancato agreed to a substitution with an alternate juror Thursday, Dec. 18, 2008, after the original juror was dismissed. His consent was required because the jury had already started deliberating.

(AP Photo/David Greene, file)

By JIM FITZGERALD,  
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — A former "Sopranos" actor has been cleared of second-degree murder in the 2005 shooting death of an off-duty policeman.

Lillo Brancato was convicted of a lesser charge of attempted burglary. He faces a minimum of three years in prison on that count, but the former actor could get credit for time served because he has been behind bars about that long. Prosecutors say Brancato and his accomplice Steven Armento broke into a basement apartment to steal prescription drugs after a night of drinking at a strip club. Officer Daniel Enchautegui (En-chow-TAY'-gee), who lived next door, came out to investigate.

Armento blasted the 28-year-old officer with his .357 Magnum, hitting him in the heart. The dying officer fired back, wounding both men. Armento was convicted earlier this year of first-degree murder and was sentenced to life in prison without parole.

THIS IS A BREAKING NEWS UPDATE. Check back soon for further information. AP's earlier story is below.

NEW YORK (AP) — Deliberations have resumed in the trial of a former "Sopranos" actor accused in the shooting death of an off-duty New York City police officer.

The Bronx jury on Monday began weighing murder charges against Lillo Brancato, who played a wannabe mobster on "The Sopranos."

The jury last deliberated on Friday, a day after announcing it was deadlocked 11-1.

Prosecutors say Brancato and an accomplice broke into a Bronx apartment next to the home of Officer Daniel Enchautegui (En-chow-TAY'-gee) in December 2005. When the officer came to investigate, the accomplice shot him in the heart.

Brancato has pleaded not guilty. He got his big break playing opposite Robert De Niro in the 1993 film "A Bronx Tale." □

## Robert Mulligan, director of 'Mockingbird,' dies



In this 1988 file photo released by Warner Bros. Inc., Director Robert Mulligan is seen on the set of 'Clara's Heart.' Mulligan, the Academy Award-nominated director of 'To Kill a Mockingbird,' has died at 83. Mulligan died early Saturday at his home in Lyme, Conn., after a battle with heart disease, his wife, Sandy, said Monday, Dec. 22, 2008.

(AP Photo/Warner Bros. Inc., File)

By POLLY ANDERSON,  
Associated Press Writer

Robert Mulligan, the Academy Award-nominated director of "To Kill a Mockingbird" who later helped launch the career of Reese Witherspoon, has died at 83.

Mulligan died early Saturday at his home in Lyme, Conn., after a battle with heart disease, his wife, Sandy, said Monday. Mulligan was nominated for

an Oscar for "Mockingbird," the adaptation of Harper Lee's best-selling novel, a Pulitzer Prize-winning look at a child's world shaken by the racism of a Southern town.

The 1962 film starred Gregory Peck, who won the best-actor Oscar for his portrayal of Atticus Finch, the small town lawyer who defends a black man falsely accused of rape.

The story unfolds largely from the point of view of Atticus' young daughter, Scout, memorably played by Mary Badham. Phillip Alford played his son, Jem.

The New York Times wrote that in the film's opening segment "achieves a bewitching indication of the excitement and thrill of being a child."

Mulligan was also known as the director of Witherspoon's first film, "The Man in the Moon." The 1991 family drama, Mulligan's last movie, brought Witherspoon notice as the younger of two teenage daughters grappling with her first love in 1950s Louisiana.

Mulligan cast Witherspoon, a Tennessee schoolgirl at the time, after seeing her during a 10-state casting search. She was 14, already getting modeling work in Nashville, when she tried out for what she thought would be a possible job as an extra in the film, she told the publication Nashville Business and Lifestyle in 1992. □

# BUSINESS

## Aruba TODAY

### Stocks fall in light trade as Toyota cuts outlook



People walk to work on this June 23, 2008 file photo, pedestrians walk past a downtown Chicago Walgreens store. Drugstore operator Walgreen Co. said Monday, Dec. 22, 2008, its profit fell 10 percent in the fiscal first quarter because of costs to open more than 200 new stores.

(AP Photo/Russel A. Daniels, file)

By MADLEN READ and SARA LEPRO,  
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK — Wall Street began a holiday-shortened week with a moderate pullback Monday as investors recoiled at bleak news from Toyota Motor Corp. and drugstore operator Walgreen Co.

The two companies — both viewed as better-positioned than many of their peers — provided more evidence that even stronger companies are struggling as consumers cut back their spending.

Walgreen's profit fell 10 percent in its fiscal first quarter, due mostly to the costs of opening more than 200 new stores, so the company said it will slow down its expansion. Toyota, meanwhile, slashed its earnings forecast for a second time, warning that it now expects to post an operating loss for the fiscal year through March.

It would be the Japanese automaker's first such loss since it began reporting results in 1941, and underscores the challenges facing car

companies. Toyota's American rivals, General Motors Corp. and Chrysler LLC, received a \$17.4 billion lifeline from the federal government last Friday to stave off bankruptcy.

Monday's gloomy corporate news highlighted how weak the consumer is, said Kim Caughey, equity research analyst at Fort Pitt Capital Group. That's a troubling prospect, she said, because it appears the U.S. economy cannot rely on consumer spending to pull it out of its downturn.

"Even though mortgage rates are coming down, we don't see the consumer running out and buying that house," Caughey said.

On Tuesday, the Commerce Department reports on last month's new home sales, while the National Association of Realtors reports on existing home sales. Economists forecast that both will show declines.

Analysts pointed out, though, that trading volumes were very low Monday, and likely to stay that way throughout the week. So trading was choppy — the Dow fell by as many as 207 points before paring its losses — and the market's movements may not be indicative of its long-term direction.

"A truncated week is going to make it tough to generate any firm takeaways from trading," said Craig Peckham, equity trading strategist at Jefferies & Co. "I would expect to see sleepy volumes and a lot of people protecting positions going into year end."

Tax-loss selling — when investors sell securities at a loss to offset a capital gains tax liability — might also contribute to the market's weakness until the year's end, Fort Pitt's Caughey noted.

The Dow fell 59.34, or 0.69 percent, to 8,519.77, after briefly moving into positive territory early in the session,

tumbling, and then recovering some of its losses. Monday's retreat was the fourth straight daily loss for the Dow.

Broader stock indicators also finished lower. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 16.25, or 1.83 percent, to 871.63, and the Nasdaq composite index fell 31.97, or 2.04 percent, to 1,532.35.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies fell 11.19, or 2.30 percent, to 475.07. Smaller companies tend to be more vulnerable to economic weakness than larger companies.

On the New York Stock Exchange, declining issues outnumbered advancers by more than 2 to 1. Consolidated volume came to 4.31 billion shares, down from 6.04 billion shares on Friday.

Toyota's U.S.-traded shares fell \$3.50, or 5.4 percent, to \$60.88.

Walgreen shares fell \$1.10, or 4.2 percent, to \$24.98.

Also weighing on stocks was Caterpillar Inc., which said it will cut executive compensation in 2009 because of waning demand for mining and construction equipment. Caterpillar shares fell 91 cents, or 2.1 percent, to \$41.78.

Wall Street has shown some signs of relative stability in the last few weeks. Since reaching multiyear lows on Nov. 20, the Dow is up 12.8 percent and the S&P 500 is up 15.8 percent.

Besides relief over the auto bailout, investor sentiment has also grown a bit more upbeat after the Federal Reserve last week cut the benchmark federal funds rate to a range of zero to 0.25 percent in an effort to boost borrowing and lending.

After doling out hundreds of billions of dollars in aid this year to prop up the troubled auto and financial sectors, companies are continuing to tap the government for assistance. □



In this June 23, 2008 file photo, pedestrians walk past a downtown Chicago Walgreens store. Drugstore operator Walgreen Co. said Monday, Dec. 22, 2008, its profit fell 10 percent in the fiscal first quarter because of costs to open more than 200 new stores.

(AP Photo/Russel A. Daniels, file)

### Walgreen 1Q profit falls 10 percent on store costs

By MARLEY SEAMAN,

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — Drugstore operator Walgreen Co. said Monday its profit fell 10 percent in its fiscal first quarter, short of Wall Street expectations, because of costs opening more than 200 new stores.

The company said it plans to slow the opening of new stores to save \$500 million in response to the recession.

The Deerfield, Ill., company said earned \$408 million, or 41 cents per share, in the three months ended Nov. 30. That total fell short of analyst expectations, and compares with \$456 million, or 46 cents per share, a year ago. Revenue grew 7 percent to \$14.95 billion.

Analysts expected 46 cents per share and \$15.08 billion in revenue, according to Thomson Reuters.

Walgreen said its selling and general expenses grew 9 percent in the quarter as it opened 212 new stores, and profit margins dipped due to greater expense provisions.

Sales at its older stores grew 1.7 percent, with prescription revenue in older stores growing 2.6 percent. Front-end revenue, or sales of nonprescription products, was flat compared with last year, showing some resilience in a down economy.

The company said prescriptions filled grew 3.7 percent during the quarter, while industry data has showed falling prescriptions for its rivals. In total, 66 percent of Walgreen's revenue came from prescription sales.

At stores open at least one year, prescriptions filled were roughly flat with last year. However, more customers filled 90-day prescriptions instead of 30-day orders, leading to adjusted growth of 1.5 percent.

Walgreen said membership in its Prescription Savings Club grew more than 40 percent from the fourth quarter, and more than 30 percent of club members are new customers. The savings club allows members to buy a 90-day supply of many common generic drugs for \$12.

The program was created in late 2007 but was relaunched over the summer, and Walgreen said it has been much more aggressive in running promotions and advertising since that time. □

# SPORTS

## Aruba TODAY

*NFL Playoffs*

# Titans, Giants secure home-field for playoffs

NEW YORK (AP) - The Atlanta Falcons capped an improbable comeback from a seemingly lost season Sunday, qualifying for the playoffs as a wild-card team by upsetting the Minnesota Vikings 24-17.

The Denver Broncos, meanwhile, lost for the second straight week, falling 30-23 at home to Buffalo, while the Chargers won their third straight, beating Tampa 41-24. That sets up a final week showdown in San Diego for the AFC West title. Those two results were part of a wild weekend that left five playoff berths still to be filled: three in the AFC and two in the NFC.

**Here is how it breaks down by conference:**

### AFC

Tennessee (13-2) has clinched the South and is guaranteed home-field advantage throughout the playoffs after beating North champion Pittsburgh (11-4) 31-14 on Sunday. Indianapolis (11-4) clinched a wild-card berth when it beat Jacksonville on Thursday night.

But the West will come down to Sunday's game in San Diego between the Broncos (8-7) and the Chargers (7-8).

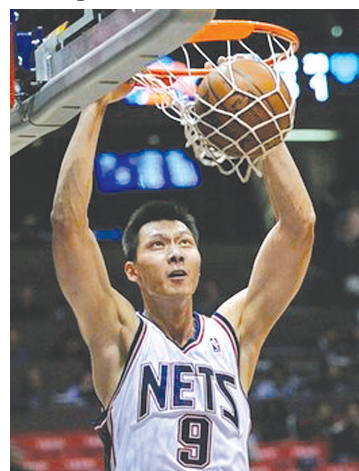
And the East is still up for grabs among Miami and New England (each 10-5) and the New York Jets (9-6). The Dolphins and Jets play at the Meadowlands next Sunday and if Miami wins, it wins the division. If the Jets win and New England wins at Buffalo, the Patriots take the title.

But if the Patriots lose and the Jets win, then the Jets are the champions.



New York Giants running back Derrick Ward runs for a 51-yard gain while chased by Carolina Panthers, from left, Chris Harris, Thomas Davis, Na'il Diggs and Jon Beason (52) in overtime of an NFL football game Sunday, Dec. 21, 2008, at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J. The Giants won 34-28.

*Associated Press*



New Jersey Nets' Yi Jianlian, of China, dunks the ball during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game against the New York Knicks on Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2008 in East Rutherford, N.J.

*Associated Press*

BEIJING (AP) - NBA player Yi Jianlian is being investigated by a Chinese-language magazine which claims he is one of many of the country's athletes guilty of lying about their age on official documents.

## Nets' Yi Jianlian targeted in age investigation

Yi, who plays for the New Jersey Nets, has long been reported in the Chinese media to be older than his records show. Earlier this month China's Sports Ministry reported that it found 36 players in China's professional basketball league whose dates of birth may have been changed.

The December issue of the Chinese-language edition of Sports Illustrated said a reporter for the magazine found records from Yi's middle-school registration in his hometown in southern China that said he was born in 1984.

His official basketball records say he was born in 1987. He is also listed by the Nets as being born Oct. 27, 1987.

A spokesman for the Chinese Basketball Association could

not be reached Monday for comment.

Yi could be quizzed again about his age on Monday when the Nets were to face the Houston Rockets and Chinese star center Yao Ming in New Jersey.

Players' ages are sometimes altered to show them as being younger, mainly to qualify for youth tournaments. Those false ages stay with athletes and can result in embarrassment and sanctions when they move on to greater success.

The opposite practice was alleged in the controversy surrounding China's gold medal-winning women's gymnastics team at the Beijing Olympics, where China entered athletes suspected of being below the minimum age of 16. □

Right now, Baltimore (10-5) leads for the second wild-card spot.

If it wins at Jacksonville next Sunday, it joins Indianapolis as a wild card \_ it holds the tiebreaker over the Patriots, who could become only the second 11-5 team not to make the playoffs if the Ravens and Dolphins both win.

### NFC

The New York Giants (12-3) gained home-field advantage with their 34-28 overtime win over Carolina and Arizona (8-7) is the champion of the West.

The Panthers (11-4) have clinched a wild-card spot but needed to win in the Meadowlands to wrap up the South.

The Falcons (10-5) have one of the wild-card spots and could still win the South.

Minnesota (9-6) could clinch the West if Chicago (8-6) loses Monday night at home to Green Bay. The Vikings also can clinch it by beating the Giants at home next week or, if the Bears win Monday, with a loss by Chicago in Houston next week.

Dallas, which lost Saturday night to Baltimore to temporarily lose control of its playoff fate, got it back Sunday after Tampa Bay was beaten by San Diego. It needs only to win at Philadelphia (8-6-1) next Sunday to get in.

If the Eagles win and the Bucs (9-6) lose at home to Oakland and Chicago loses at least once, then Philadelphia makes it. □

# OU's Sam Bradford: AP college Player of the Year

By MURRAY EVANS

Associated Press Writer

NORMAN, Okla. — Sam Bradford of Oklahoma was voted The Associated Press college football player of the year Monday. He beat out the same two quarterbacks he did in capturing the Heisman Trophy — Colt McCoy of Texas and Tim Tebow of Florida. Bradford received 27 votes from the AP media panel that votes in the weekly poll. The sophomore quarterback was followed by McCoy with 17 votes. Tebow won the award last year and had 16 votes this time. Texas Tech receiver Michael Crabtree had two votes.

Bradford is the third Oklahoma player to win the AP award, which began in 1998. The others were Josh Heupel in 2000 and Jason White in 2003.

Bradford, McCoy and Tebow finished in the same order in the Heisman balloting. Bradford will lead No. 2 Oklahoma against Tebow and No. 1 Florida in the BCS title game Jan. 8 in Miami.

Oklahoma's offense this season has been among the most prolific, scoring 702 points and breaking the major-college record of 656 set by Hawaii in 2006. The Sooners are the first major-college team in 89 years to score at least 60 points in five straight games, a streak they'll take into the showdown with Florida.

Bradford, 6-foot-4 and 218



Oklahoma football player Sam Bradford poses after being awarded the Heisman Trophy Saturday, Dec. 13, 2008 in New York.

Associated Press

pounds, has passed for 4,464 yards and 48 touchdowns this season, breaking the school record White set in 2003. He also leads the nation in passing efficiency and has thrown only six interceptions. Bradford tore ligaments in the thumb on his left (nonthrowing) hand during a win over Oklahoma State on Nov. 29. He played despite the injury as the Sooners routed Missouri in the Big 12 title game Dec. 6 and underwent surgery the next day. Coaches said at the time Bradford most likely will return to practice within 10 days.

Bradford came to Oklahoma in 2006 regarded by many as merely an insurance policy should something happen to Rhett Bomar.

Something did happen. Bomar broke NCAA rules by receiving extra pay for work he did not do at a Norman car dealership, and Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops kicked him

off the team that August. Bradford redshirted in 2006, waiting behind Paul Thompson — who stepped in and guided the Sooners to a Big 12 title — then emerged from a three-way competition for the starting job last season. He passed for 7,585 yards and a school-record 84 touchdowns in his two seasons as the starter. Bradford needs 338 passing yards against Florida to overtake White for the school record. □

## Jets-Dolphins moved to 4:15 p.m. start

NEW YORK — The Miami Dolphins will try to wrap up the AFC East title against the New York Jets at 4:15 p.m. on Sunday.

The NFL announced the starting times for its final week games Monday under the “flex scheduling” system that allows it to put more attractive games in the later starting times.

The league had already announced that the Denver-San Diego game for the AFC West title will be played at 8:15 p.m. Sunday night.

Miami, 1-15 last season and 10-5 now, needs a victory to wrap up the division. If the Jets win, New England (10-5) could capture its sixth straight division title if it wins at Buffalo in a 1 p.m. start.

Two other games also were switched to 4:15 p.m.: Dallas (9-6) at Philadelphia (8-6-1) and Jacksonville (5-10) at Baltimore (10-5).

The Cowboys could gain a wild-card spot with a victory. The Eagles could also make the playoffs if they win and Tampa Bay loses at home to Oakland in a game that will start at 1 p.m. Baltimore (10-5) could also make the playoffs with a win after finishing 5-11 last season.

## Angels withdraw offer to slugger Teixeira

LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles Angels have pulled their eight-year offer to Mark Teixeira and will no longer go after the first baseman.

Team spokesman Tim Mead confirmed Sunday the Angels have withdrawn their offer and are “out of the Mark Teixeira derby.” The team made its offer, reportedly worth about \$160 million, during the winter meetings in Las Vegas earlier this month.

The Red Sox said last week that they “are not going to be a factor” in signing the 28-year-old Maryland native. Washington and Baltimore have expressed interest in Teixeira.

The Angels obtained Teixeira from the Atlanta Braves in late July. Playing in a combined 157 games with the Angels and Braves, Teixeira had 33 homers and 121 RBIs along with a career-best .308 average. □

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Most charming one story patio home with tropical garden, fully landscaped, salt-system pool and Jacuzzi with wraparound deck. The master bedroom suite and the guest bedroom suite enjoy spectacular private views of the garden. The upgraded kitchen with granite counter top, stainless steel appliances and mahogany finished cabinets, enjoys pool and golf course view, complementing the spacious living & dining areas. Ample custom closets and storage, central air-conditioning and ceiling fans. Furniture and furnishings negotiated separately. **Priced at US\$695.000**



## Miramar 3

Lot: 599 m2 / 6,448 sq.ft. Home: 161 m2 / 1,733 sq.ft. 2 / 2 ½  
Cozy one story casita, 2 master suit bedrooms, 2 ½ bathrooms, with living/dining/kitchen area wide open. Includes a one-car garage and separate laundry room. Nicely landscaped, and ready for occupancy. **Priced at US\$699,000**

## Miramar 27

Lot: 711m2 / 7,653 sq.ft. Home: 245.45 m2 / 2,642 sq.ft. 3/4  
New construction, just-finished home. Two story home, three bedrooms, spectacular terraces, four baths, panoramic views from everywhere, includes all appliances, Italian furnishings, decorations, drip system, pool with infinity edge. **Priced at US\$1,750,000**



## Las Rocas 14D 149 m2 / 1,495 sq.ft 3/2

This second story Las Rocas condo has 3-bedrooms and 2 full bathrooms, dining room and terrace, central air conditioning, hot water heater, stacked washer & dryer, pantry, closets and a one car garage with storage room. Enjoys great golf views and nature preserve. **Priced at US\$450,000**

## Mesa Vista 29 130m2 / 1,400 sq.ft. 2 / 2 ½

Lot: 728 m2 / 7,836 sq.ft. Home: 274 m2 / 2,949 sq.ft. 4/3  
This two story Hacienda home with expanded living area enjoys a beautiful pool and gazebo with exceptional views, raised Jacuzzi, tiled patio with a large pergola, and a built in BBQ, bar and entertainment area downstairs, with two bedrooms and one bathroom nicely laid out with ample closet space and a rustic pass through kitchen. The upstairs master suite with spacious bedroom, full bathroom and large balcony, enjoys golf and nature preserve views. Two car garage, maid's quarters with bathroom. The home is fully air-conditioned, and will be sold unfurnished. **Priced at US\$ 995,000**

## Bella Vista 12: Lot: 2,076 m2 / 22,346 sq.ft. Home: 429.6 m2 / 4,624 sq.ft. 5 / 3 plus two ½

This two story luxurious custom-built villa has four-bedrooms, and maid's quarters, a formal dining room, great room, large fully equipped kitchen with breakfast nook, den, pool, gazebo, various patio areas and a two car garage, on the ground floor. The upstairs enjoys lounge areas with ocean views and balconies. All furniture, linen, equipment and tools are included. Just bring your tooth brush. **Priced at US\$2.300,000**



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Calendar Period: December 2008 - January 2009

week#2-17-OccidentalGrand-1Bdr Supreme,OceanFront -US\$26,000	week#51 - La Cabana - Studio R#238bPoolOceanviewUS\$7,000	week# 50 - Paradise Beach- 1Bdr R#306,GardenView! -US\$6,500
week#2-17-OccidentalGrand-1Bdr Supreme,OceanFront US\$35,000	PlatinumPl. W#51 Marriott Surf. 2Bdr, Oceanview-US\$45,000	week# 50-Paradise Beach 2BTH. R#217,PoolOcean- US\$12,000
week#2-17-OccidentalGrand-1B RoyalClubGrandLe.-US\$30,000	PlatinumPl. W#52 Marriott Surf. 2Bdr,OceanFront-US\$60,000	week# 1- Paradise Beach-1Bdr R#227,OceanFront- US\$15,000
Week#1-Costa Linda - 2 Bdr R#2031 PoolOcean- US\$25,000	FloatingW#18-50 Marriott Ocean 1Bdr,Oceanview- US\$12,000	week# 50-51 - Divi Village - Std R#3214 GV- US\$5,500 p/week
week#50 -La Cabana - 1 Bdr R#137c - OceanView-US\$6,000	FloatingW#18-50 Marriott Ocean 2Bdr, Oceanview -US\$ 20,000	week#52 -DiviPhoenix - studio R#110-OceanFront-US\$11,000
Week#51-Divi Phoenix - 1 Bdr R#1401, OceanView - US\$13,500	PlatinumW#1-17.Marriott Ocean 1Bdr, OceanView-US\$18,000	week# 1- DiviPhoenix - 2Bdr. R#206,OceanFront- US\$20,000
week#50 & 51 La Cabana-2 Bdr. R#414,PoolOcean US\$30,000	PlatinumW#1-17.Marriott Ocean 1Bdr,OceanFront-US\$30,000	week# 51-CasaDelMar aw-1Bdr. R#1329,PoolView US\$10,000
week#51-La Cabana - studio R#416b,PoolOcean-US\$7,500	PlatinumW#1-17.Marriott Ocean 2Bdr,OceanView-US\$26,000	week# 50 - RIU Palace - 1Bdr R#566,Oceanview-US\$6,000
week#50-La Cabana - 1Bdr R#227a-OceanView- US\$5,500	PlatinumW#1-17.Marriott Ocean 2Bdr,OceanFront-US\$60,000	week#1 - Riu Palace - 2Bdr R#269-OceanFront- US\$28,000
week#50-La Cabana -1Bdr R#138c-PoolOcean-US\$6,000	week# 50 - Renaissance - 1Bdr. R#2512,Gardenview-US\$9,000	week#48 - Playa Linda -1Bdr R#154-Oceanview-US\$10,000
week#52-La Cabana- 1Bdr R#118a-PoolOcean- US\$12,000	week# 47 - Renaissance - 1Bdr R#2322,OceanView- US\$5,000	week#48-DiviDutchVillage -2Bdr R#76 - PoolView - US\$12,000
Floating w#2-17 Occidental Gra. 1Bdr/dlx-PoolOcean-US\$13,000	week# 2 - Costa Linda - 2Bdr. R#2033,PoolOcean- US\$26,000	week# 1-DiviLinks-2Bdr penth. Duplex,Poolview - US\$45,000
Floating w#18-50-Occidental Gr. JuniorS-PoolOcean-US\$11,000	week# 1 & 2 Renaissance-1 Bdr. R#2508,Gardenv.-US\$9,000p.w.	week# 52 - DiviLinks - 1Bdr. R#2206,PoolOcean-US\$15,000
Floating-18-26/36-50-Occidental 1Bdr/dlx,PoolOcean-US\$10,000	week# 51 - Renaissance -1 Bdr. R#2311,PoolOcean- US\$12,000	week# 50 & 51-DiviLinks -1 Bdr. R#4226,Poolview-US\$16,000pw
Floating W# 1-17-Occidental Gr. studio,PoolOceanv-US\$9,000	week# 51-Aruban Resort- 1 Bdr. R#4584g, PoolView - US\$9,475	week# 52 & 1- DiviLinks - 1Bdr R#4226,PoolV.- US\$17,000pw
Floating W#18-50.Marriott Surf. 2Bdr,Oceanview- US\$23,000	week#51&52.ArubanResort-1Br R#4586, PoolView-US\$9,475pw	week# 2 & 3-DiviLinks- 1 Bdr R#4226,PoolV.- US\$15,000p.w
Floating W#18-50.Marriott Surf. 2Bdr,Gardenview- US\$20,000	week# 1 & 2,ArubanResort-1Bdr R#4585,Poolview- US\$8,475pw	week# 49-Renaissance-1Bdrdlx R#2349,OceanFront,US\$10,000
Floating W#18-50.Marriott Surf. 2Bdr,OceanSide- US\$23,000	week# 2,Aruban Resort-1 Bdr. R#4584 ,PoolView-US\$.8,475	week#50-ParadiseBeach-1Bdr. R#101,PoolOcean- US\$10,000
Floating W#18-50.Marriott Surf. 3Bdr,Oceanview- US\$30,000	week# 51,Aruban Resort - 1 Bdr R#3525, PoolView - US\$9,475	week# 50&51-Costa Linda-2Bdr R#3007,PoolOcean-US\$50,000
Platinum W#1-17.Marriott Surf. 3Bdr,Oceanview- US\$50,000	week#52,Aruban Resort-1Bdr. R# 4522,PoolView- US\$9,475	week#2-ParadiseBeach-2Bdr R#207,PoolOcean - US\$15,000
Platinum W#1-17.Marriott Surf. 2Bdr,OceanSide -US\$33,000	week#49&50,ArubanResort-2Bdr R#1552PoolView-US\$12,500pw	week# 3&4 ParadiseBeach-1Br R#101,P.Ocean-US\$12,000pw
Platinum W#1-17.Marriott Surf. 2Bdr,OceanView US\$30,000	week#51&52,ArubanResort-2Br. R#1552PoolView US\$13,500pw	week#49 -Renaissance-1Bdr R#2144,Gardenview US\$4,000
PlatiPl.W#51&52.Marriott Surf. 2Bdr,OceanFront-US\$140,000	week#49&50,ArubanResort-1Br. R#1515,PoolView - US\$14,000	week#1through52AmsterDM-2B R#213,P.Ocean - US\$520,000
PlatiPl.W#51&52.Marriott Surf. 2Bdr,OceanView-US\$125,000	week# 52,Devi Link-1Bdr. R#2206,PoolOcean-US\$18,000	week#18-50.DiviVillage-1Bdr R#2E,Poolview-US\$10,000

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*Funcionario de EEUU, Thomas Shannon*

## Propósitos rusos en Latinoamérica, poco claros

MOSCU (Reuters) - Las recientes visitas navales rusas a Cuba y Venezuela pueden estar vinculadas con la guerra de Georgia en agosto, dijo el lunes un diplomático de Estados Unidos, quien agregó que Washington está observando los próximos movimientos del Kremlin antes de tomar una postura.

En una primera visita a Moscú que vinculó al crecimiento de los intereses rusos en América del Sur y Central, el secretario de Estado adjunto Thomas Shannon dijo que Rusia podría estar considerando una presencia de seguridad allí y advirtió sobre una posible carrera armamentista en la región.

Semanas después de que un buque de guerra ruso realizara ejercicios en conjunto con Venezuela y visitara Cuba por primera vez desde la Guerra Fría, Shannon dijo que Washington podría sacar sus propias conclusiones basándose en futuras acciones rusas.

“Lo que estaríamos diciendo, sin embargo,

es que no se trata de esta visita del barco, sino de la siguiente”, explicó Shannon, responsable por las relaciones con el hemisferio occidental en el departamento de Estado.

“Si el propósito de esta visita naval era simplemente dejar en claro la periferia de Rusia, si su objetivo era decir algo sobre Georgia, probablemente no los veremos nuevamente”, expresó.

Inmediatamente después de la guerra entre Rusia y Georgia, los buques de guerra estadounidenses viajaron a los puertos georgianos del Mar Negro, gesto que enojó al primer ministro ruso, Vladimir Putin, quien preguntó si a Washington le gustaría que Rusia enviara barcos cerca de aguas de su país.

En septiembre, Moscú despachó dos bombarderos de capacidad nuclear Tu-160 y una flotilla naval a Venezuela, guiada por el barco de guerra “Pedro el Grande”. □



Foto de archivo del secretario de Estado adjunto estadounidense Thomas Shannon durante una conferencia de prensa en La Paz, 23 jul 2008. Las recientes visitas navales rusas a Cuba y Venezuela pueden estar vinculadas con la guerra de Georgia en agosto, dijo el lunes un diplomático de Estados Unidos, quien agregó que Washington está observando los próximos movimientos del Kremlin antes de tomar una postura. REUTERS/Gaston Brito (BOLIVIA)



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International Cuisine and Tapas  
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Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner. Daily Live music by local artists and bands on our large terrace.  
Open from  
8.00 am - 01.00 am  
7 days a week  
[www.saltandpepperaruba.com](http://www.saltandpepperaruba.com)



MooMba Beach

**MooMba Beach**  
(between Holiday Inn & Marriott Surf Club)  
International Cuisine  
Phone: 586-5365  
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner and Daily Live Music. Enjoy dinner by torch light... barefoot on the beach. Open from  
7.00 am - 11.00 pm  
Bar open from  
10.00 am - 01.00 am  
[www.moombabeach.com](http://www.moombabeach.com)



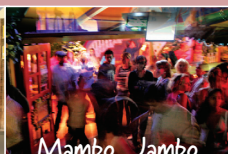
Sopranos Piano Bar

**Sopranos Piano Bar**  
(at Arawak Garden, High Rise Hotels)  
Bar with Live Entertainment  
Phone: 586-8622  
Extensive Cocktail menu. Daily live music, request your favorite songs and sing along! Open from  
5.00 pm - 01.00 am  
7 days a week  
[www.sopranospianobar.com](http://www.sopranospianobar.com)



Matilde

**Matilde Restaurant**  
(Downtown)  
International Cuisine  
AAA/4 Diamond Award  
Phone: 583-9200  
Lunch and Dinner  
A refined dining experience.  
Restaurant open from  
11.30 am - 11.00 pm  
7 days a week  
[www.matildearuba.com](http://www.matildearuba.com)



Mambo Jambo

**Mambo Jambo Latin Bar & Grill**  
(Royal Plaza Downtown)  
International & Latin Cuisine  
Phone: 583-3632  
Lunch, Dinner, Live Bands, Salsa Dancing, Great food and good music 7 days a week. Restaurant open from  
11.00 am - 09.00 pm,  
Bar open from  
11.00 am - 04.00 am  
[www.mambojamboaruba.com](http://www.mambojamboaruba.com)



Hadicurari

**Hadicurari Restaurant**  
(between MooMba Beach and Marriott Surf Club)  
International and Seafood Cuisine  
Phone: 586-2288  
Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner  
'Seafood with a view'  
Restaurant open from  
8.00 am - 11.00 pm  
7 days a week  
[www.hadicurari.com](http://www.hadicurari.com)



**WWW.ARUBAWINEANDDINE.COM**

